PROMENADE

A MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN FOLKLORE

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The American Square Dance Group

New York, N.Y.

PROMENADE

"The purpose of the American Square Dance Group is to make available those rich stores of native dance, music, and general Americana which comprise American folk culture; to conduct activities without regard to race, creed, color or social position; to cooperate with those who hold similar views."

Constitution of the A.S.D.G.

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Summer shot through the Berkshires like a jet-propelled missile, and now winter is lumbering up the road, prepared for the annual tussle.

The summer ended, for me, with an exciting, completely satisfying two-week vacation. Two friends and I motored through New England on a camping trip. We cooked out and tried to sleep out,in a steady rain that had refused to fall during the so dry summer.

The main object of our journey was to visit as many Shaker settlements as possible. Starting from New Lebanon, New York, we rushed up to Concord, New Hampshire, and spent two wonderful days with the East Canterbury Shakers. We enjoyed an evening of square dancing in Concord, with a friendly group who, incidentally, used our recordings.

Cutting back across the state we visited Enfield, a former Shaker settlement which is now a Catholic College. And, while we were over in that section, we detoured into Vermont to spend a wonderful evening with a farmer who was a genuine country fiddler.

A swing through the White mountains brought us into Maine, with its mountains and its fascinating coast.

Massachusetts was next on our itinerary, and we headed for Harvard, the town, not the college,in search of the remains of the historic Shaker settlement that had been founded there during the latter part of the 18th century.

On our way we met the Tuckers, who were, we found, real treasure houses of folklore. They were the caretakers of a deserted camp and allowed us to sleep on one of the tent platforms. It was, as usual, raining, and the Tuckers invited us into their house, in the morning, for hot coffee.

Mr. Tucker, aged 71 and blind, remembered many folk-expressions and told many charming stories of the old days. We regretted having so little time to spend with them.

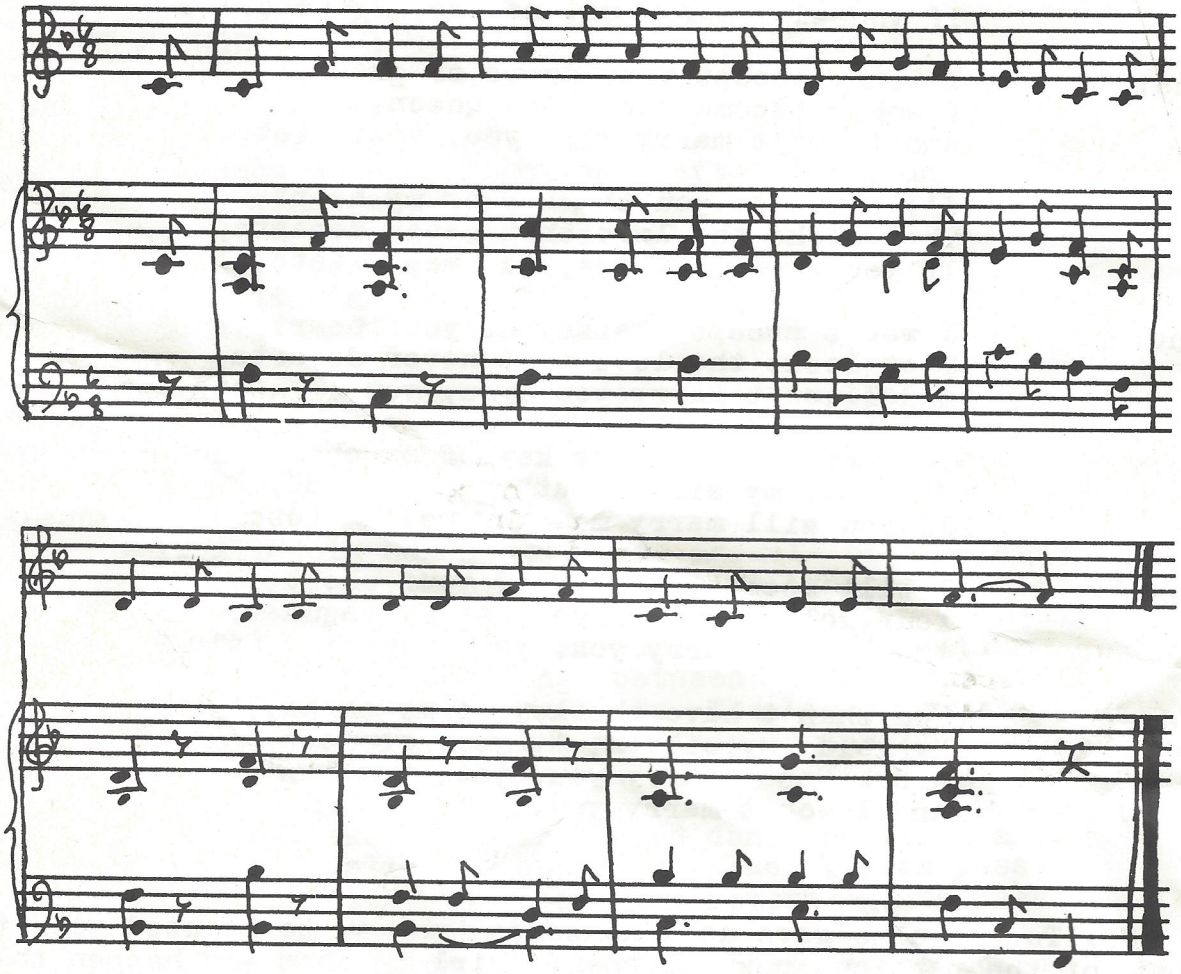
There's so much to tell about the people we met and the material we collected, that I guess I' ll have to save some of it for the next issue. See you then.

Margot Mayo

A PAPER OF PINS

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tucker sang this traditional old song in the question and answer form indicated by the words. Mr. Tucker figured that he had known the song for at least sixty years. But the song obviously dates back to the days when pins were mighty important and scarce. This ties in with the origin of the expression "pin money," and the good old days when the ladies put aside their extra money in order to buy pins.

Mrs. Tucker always answered with the same melody a fifth above Mr. Tucker!



He: I'll give to you a paper of pins,
If that's the way our love begins,
If you will marry me, me, me,
If you will marry me.

She: I won't accept your paper of pins,
If that's the way our love begins,
And I'll not marry you, you, you,
And I'll not marry you.

He: I'll give to you a little black dog
To follow you when you go abroad,
If you will marry me, me, me (etc.)

(continued)

She: I won't accept your little black dog
To follow me when I go abroad,
And I'll not marry you, you, you (etc.)

He: I'll give to you a dress of red,
All bound around with a golden thread,
If you will marry me, me, me, (etc.)

She: I won't accept your dress of red,
All bound around with a golden thread,
And I'll not marry you, you, you, (etc.)

He: I'll give to you a dress of green,
You shall become the fairy queen,
If you will marry me, me, me, (etc.)

She: I won't accept your dress of green,
I won't become the fairy queen,
And I won't marry you, you, you, (etc.)

He: I'll give to you the key of my heart
That locks the love that never departs,
If you will marry me, me, me, (etc.)

She: I won't accept the key of your heart
That locks the love that never departs,
And I won't marry you, you, you, (etc.)

He: I'll give to you the key of my chest,
My gold, my silver, at your request,
If you will marry me, me, me, (etc.)

She: I will accept the key of your chest,
Your gold, your silver, at my request,
And I will marry you, you, you, (etc.)

He: You shan't have the key of my chest,
My gold, my silver, at your request,
And I won't marry you, you, you,
And I won't marry you.

Mr. Tucker also gave us a nonsense rhyme, to be used with the name of the particular small boy or girl to whom you happen to be speaking. Substitute the child's first and last names for those in the rhyme. Mr. Tucker said he probably learned the rhyme from his father, who lived to be eighty-six years old, which means that the rhyme is probably quite ancient.

John (Jane) Marinso, Tinsoe, Hiram Rinsoe, Hayman, Homan, Highman, Flap-jack, Flint-George, Smith.

MICHIGAN QUADRILLE

This square dance-quadrille was collected a while back by Irving Feinberg while visiting in Michigan. It is interesting as a square dance based upon the old-time quadrille of the 1840's. Time has reduced and simplified the intricate figures and done away with the fancy jig steps.

MUSIC: Any combination of tunes which contrast such as; Wind That Shakes The Barley, Larry O'Gaff and Golden Slippers. One tune is played for each figure.

FIRST FIGURE

Calls:

1. Circle left and back to the right.
2. Head couples right and left through and right and left back.
3. Head couples chassez.
4. Head couples promenade half way; Half right and left home.
5. Allemande left, grand right and left.

Repeat calls 2 through 5 for side couples.

Chorus: Honor corners and swing partners.

Descriptions:

1. All join hands and go around to the left halfway then return to the right to original places.
2. The two head couples walk toward each other, the ladies going between the gents and passing left shoulders. When in place they turn as a couple, the lady moving forward, the gent backward. Repeat to original place.
3. Gent takes lady in closed dance position and they slide to opposite place ladies passing back to back. On return gents pass back to back.
4. Head couples join hands in skating position and walk to opposite place. They return as in call 2.
5. The gent faces his corner and they turn holding left hands. Partners face each other, give right hands and pass right shoulders.

SECOND FIGURE

Wait eight measures.

Calls:

1. Gents form a basket, all circle left.
2. Break that ring with a corner swing.
3. Promenade the corner lady.

Repeat until all have original partners.

Descriptions:

1. Gents join hands in center circle, ladies join hands in outside circle. Gents, on left hand side of partners, raise their arms over the ladies' heads and hold from behind. The entire circle moves to the left.
2. The gents swing their left hand lady.
3. They promenade to the gents place.

THIRD FIGURE

(No wait.)

Calls:

1. All hands around to the left and back to the right.
2. Head couple out to the right, circle four hands around.
3. Duck and dive six in line.
4. On to the next and circle four.
5. Duck and dive four in line.
6. On to the last and circle four.
7. Duck and dive six in line.
8. Allemande left, grand right and left and promenade home.

Repeat calls 1 through 8 for each couple.

Chorus: Honor your partners all.

Descriptions:

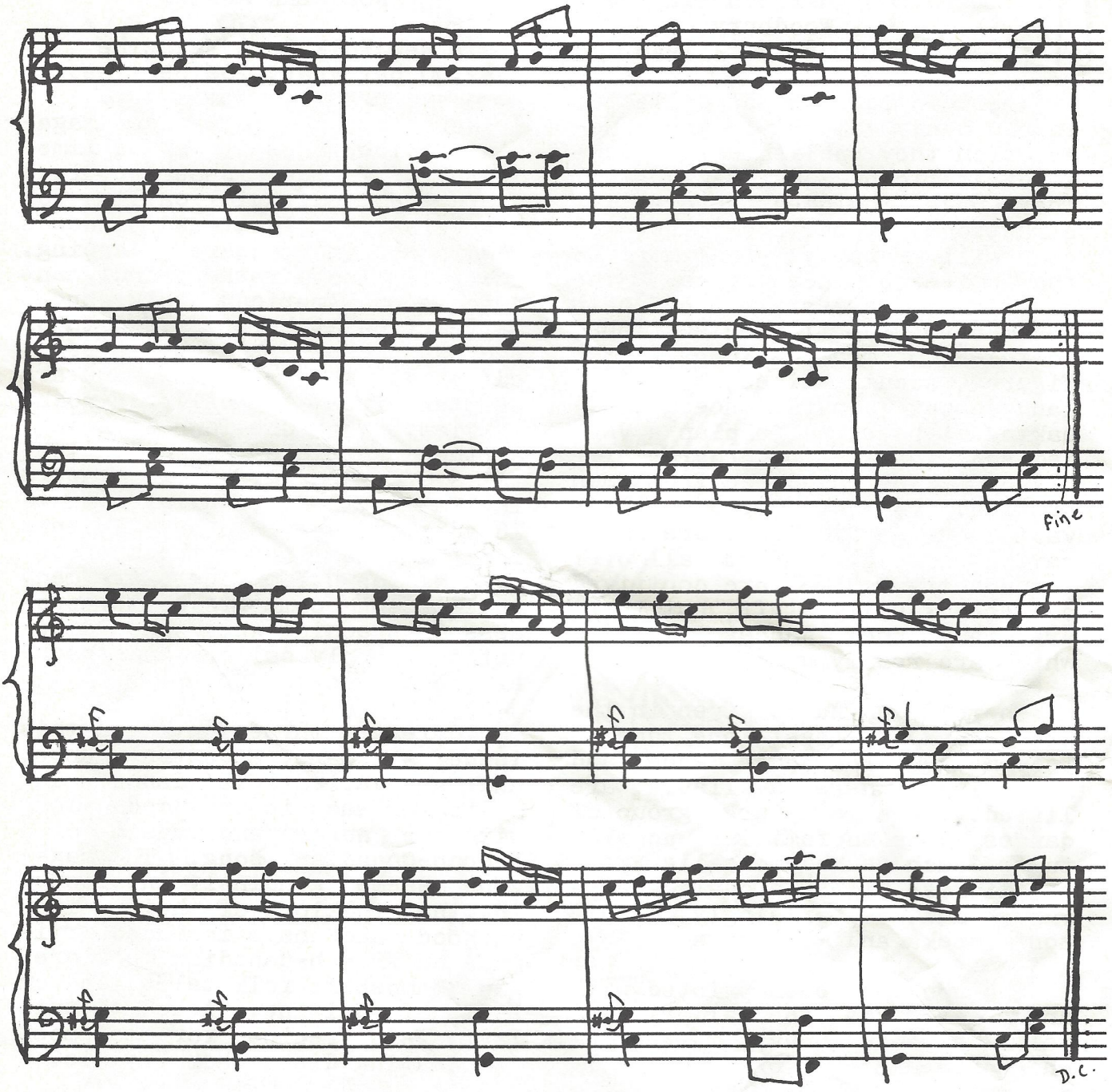
1. All join hands and go half way around to the left then back to the right to original places.
2. Head couple goes to couple on the right and circle once around.
3. Each gent takes his partner's hand and they move forward. The active couple ducks under the upraised hands of couple two. They turn in place and return, raising their hands over the heads of couple four, ducking under the hands of couple two. They turn in place and return.

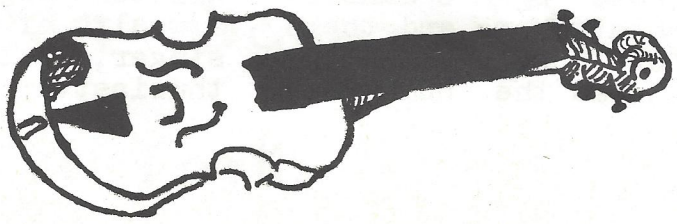
This figure is a continuous movement of all three couples. The active couple ducks first, and the over, under movement is alternated.

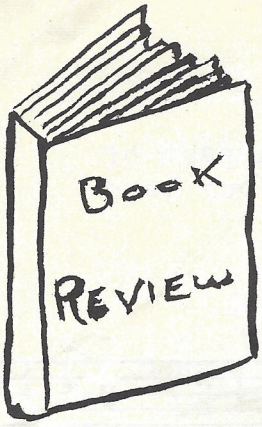
These calls are repeated.

The Wind that Shakes the Barley

A traditional Irish dance melody that is as much a part of our folk-heritage as it is Ireland's, having come to our land many years ago.







BOOK REVIEW

AMERICAN
SQUARE DANCES

Dot Burgen, Editor

American Squares
Woodbury, N.J.
$1.50 - 1948

American Squares has collected in one handy volume all the dances which they published in Volume I of American Squares Magazine. They have included general instructions for beginners, but the book will probably appeal more to the semi-experienced dancer. The dances are classified by main movements into fifteen sections, (circles, promenades, center star figures, accumulatives, New England dances, contra dances, etc.) making it possible to plan a varied and interesting program simply by taking one dance from each section. Many of the dances are variations on old familiars which have been sent in from all over the country. Some are contrived pseudo-hillbilly stuff, but there are many new dances included which are really good.

There is no music given in the book, but at least one tune is recommended for each dance, and recordings, where available, are listed. There is a large group of dances done to familiar popular tunes such as Madamoiselle From Armetieres; Old MacDonald Had a Farm; and, surprisingly, Atchison, Topeka and the Santa Fe.

The book has been printed with an eye towards the caller. The calls are in heavy dark print while the explanations are in ordinary print. The style of the volume is intimate and relaxed, from which some square dancers might take a hint. Here and there are odd bits of funny-useless information such as the number of swings in a particular dance. But it all serves to add flavor to this welcome addition to your folk dance library.

NORTHERN JUNKET

A New Folk Lore Magazine
$2.00 per year, 20¢ per issue

Here is a new folk lore magazine which takes its stand immediately. In the issue we read there is an editorial calling for a reversal of the trend towards rowdiness in square dancing. There is also a rather indignant defense of American folk dances as "America at her best." Both of these articles are by Ralph Page, editor of the magazine, and are written from the caller's point of view. "What One Town Is Doing", another article by a caller, tells of a new group of dancers in Hamden, Conn., children 12 to 16 years of age, who have learned folk dancing under the sponsorship of the C.Y.O. There are many interesting comments on the process of teaching which should benefit not only callers and teachers, but dancers too.

There are three dances in this issue; a square, a contra dance, and a Bavarian folk dance. The music for each is included, along with the words and music of a French-Canadian song. The magazine seems genuinely interested in the folklore of their neighborhood and have included articles on French-Canadian folklore, New Hampshire folk tales, and on regional cuisine. Added to this last is a recipe for that most fascinating dish, Shoo Fly Pie.

This is an interesting, well-written magazine, which presents a wealth of material for dancer, singer, caller, and folk lore enthusiast.